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11000 U.S. PTO  
09/909965  
07/23/01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

DARREN R. BRABAW

SERIAL NUMBER:

EXAMINER:

FILED:

GROUP ART UNIT:

FOR: AUTOMATED BAR CODE LABEL CANCELLER

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

HONORABLE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS & TRADEMARKS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In connection with the above-identified patent application, and the prosecution thereof before the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and in compliance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 CFR 1.56, Applicant hereby desires to make of record, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.97, the following **PRIOR ART** of which Applicant is aware and which is also listed upon the attached PTO FORM 1449:

Verschuur et al.	5,811,792
Heninger et al.	5,234,798

Information Disclosure Statement  
**AUTOMATED BAR CODE LABEL CANCELLER**  
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<b>Shibata</b>	<b>4,738,472</b>
<b>Maruta et al.</b>	<b>4,424,245</b>

The present invention, in connection with which the present patent application is being prosecuted, is directed toward a method, and an apparatus for carrying out such method, of effectively cancelling existing bar codes appearing upon thermal-direct-printed labels by exposing the labels to radiant heat. In view of the fact that the bar codes are initially formed or effectively printed upon the labels by means of thermal-direct-printing techniques using heated platens, whereby blackened portions are formed upon the labels at the sites or locations at which the heated platens touch or contact the labels so as to thereby define the bar code, then in accordance with the principles and teachings of the present invention, by exposing the entire label to radiant heat, the entire label will become blackened thereby rendering the pre-existing bar code illegible or non-readable.

While the cited **PRIOR ART** is relevant to the present invention in that the **PRIOR ART** discloses various heat-sensitive or thermal sensitive materials, it is submitted that such **PRIOR ART** patent publications cited above do not

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disclose the particular aforementioned features of the present invention, and therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the examiner should merely consider such **PRIOR ART** in its proper perspective, make the same officially of record, and proceed with completion of the examination of this patent application.

Respectfully Submitted,  
**SCHWARTZ & WEINRIEB**



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